ANARCHIST AGE WEEKLY REVIEW

An Anarchist Society is a voluntary non-hierarchical society based on the creation of social and political structures which allow all people equal decision making power and equal access to society's wealth.

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NO GLOBALISATION WITHOUT DIRECT DEMOCRACY – ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE

WAR ON TERROR?

It's an insult to the public's intelligence to believe that the State war on terrorism that has been unilaterally declared by the United States will dent global terrorist activity. Although the events in New York were painful, devastating and defy comprehension, they pale into insignificance when compared to the damage that has been inflicted on human beings by State sponsored and State sanctioned terrorism.

The twentieth century is awash with the handiwork of State sponsored terrorism. The liquidation of over a million Armenian Christians by the Turkish government, during the First World War, the slaughter of over two million small landowners by the Bolsheviks in the late 1920's and early 1930's, the eradication of over six million Jews in the1930's and 1940's by the Nazi's, the dropping of the atomic bomb by the United States on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of W.W.II, the slaughter of over 20 million small Chinese landowners by the Chinese Communist Party in the 1950's, the United States secret war in South America in the 1960's, the bombing of Cambodia back to the Stone Age by the United States, in the early 1970's, the horrors of Pol Pot's regime in the 1970's, the reign of terror exercised by Iran's Muslim Fundamentalists in the 1980's, the wholesale slaughter of almost a million Tutsis by the Hutu dominated government in Rwanda in the 1990's, are just a few prominent examples of the devastating effects of State sponsored and State sanctioned terrorism in the 20th century.

The war on terrorism proposed by the United States is a war that only tackles a fraction of the terrorist threat faced by humanity. Any war on terrorism needs to tackle the main cause of terrorism, unlimited State power. The greater the power of the State, the greater potential for terrorism. Any war on terrorism that does not tackle questions about the power of the State is doomed to fail. The unilateral declaration of war on terrorism by the United States has the very real potential of degenerating into the 21st century's first example of mass State sponsored terrorism.

An effective war on terrorism where the cure is not worse than the disease, can only be carried out by the United Nations supervised armed forces that has the power to intervene when State power is used to unleash terror on the population. Unless the United States is willing to allow the United Nations to lead the war on both State and non-State sanctioned terrorism, the war on terror unleashed by the United States and supported by Australia, will only add to the impressive catalogue of State sponsored terrorism that the world has experienced.

STRIPPING THE CARCASS

Ten years after the sale of Qantas to the private sector by the Labor government, the Australian airline industry has crash-landed. The demise of Ansett is not just a disaster for Ansett staff, it's also a disaster for Australian Airline passengers. Qantas, the survivor of the Labor and Liberal parties deregulation policies, now control a very handy monopoly. Over 90% of Australia's airline industry is now controlled by Qantas.

The coalition governments policies, not Air New Zealand's mismanagement, drove the nails in the Ansett coffin. Now that Ansett is on the ropes, the Federal government has refused to intervene, preferring to leave the Australian Airlines industry in the hands of a monopoly than helping out Ansett. Instead of trying to resuscitate Ansett, the coalition government is helping the private sector strip the carcass of Ansett. Instead of encouraging one company to take over Ansett or nationalise Ansett and provide some competition for Qantas, the government is happier assisting private corporations to strip the Ansett carcass of profitable routes and services and to hell with the rest of the business.

This short sighted response to this catastrophe, sets the scene for all the joys that monopolies controlled by the private sector bring to capitalist economies. One company will now control the movement of cargo and passengers in this country and this same company has now become the only airline that the government can use. A shortsighted but profitable private response to the current disaster. The Howard governments policy of not intervening or regulating the airline industry to protect consumers, exposes Australians to the worst excesses of monopoly capitalism.

At the very least, the Howard government should introduce legislation into parliament that regulates the pricing policies of Qantas. If it refuses to step in, it will make Australians hostages to Qantas's quest to maximise profits for shareholders at the expense of consumers. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission or no Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, monopoly control of any industry, especially the airline industry, gives a carrier an inordinate amount of power far beyond the power that any private corporation should be allowed to exercise.

STOCKMARKET HAMMERING DUE TO MORE THAN TERRORISM

The hammering that stokmarkets have taken since the 11th of September is due to more that the terrorist attacks in the United States. The world economy was sitting on a bubble that is seen once in a hundred years. New technology, the Information Technology revolution has acted as a catalyst for the current crisis in the worlds stockmarkets. The advent of the computer age in the 21st century, as the advent of the motor car at the turn of the 20th century has been accompanied by the creation of a plethora of new companies.

As the technological innovations surrounding the development of the motor vehicle were fine tuned, most of the new manufacturing companies fell to the wayside leaving the field to five or six transnational corporations. The advert of the computer age has been met by a flurry of activity within the computer industry. Thousands of I.T. companies both in Australia and overseas, have been created to meet a demand that seems to have peeked. Over the past two years, most of these companies have fallen on hard times, leaving the field to fewer and fewer corporations.

These new corporations are still struggling to produce profits, as most of their income goes towards improving and expanding necessary infrastructure. The lack of returns to investors in the I.T. field is the single most important reason that the economy has hit the wall. The terrorists attacks in the United States has not created the falls on the stockmarket, but they have helped to bring forward the inevitable collapse that the economy is faced with. The boom bust cycle is still alive and well. It is an inherent aspect of capitalism, not an aberration.

What we are witnessing across the globe is that inevitable boom bust cycle that is such a prominent feature of capitalist production. The stockmarket will continue to fall because the world economy has slipped into a recession. The current recession is due to the shakeout in the computer market, not a fear of war or a fear of the unknown. The decentralised nature of the Internet makes it difficult for corporations to derive profits from their Internet activity. The current downturn has more to do with the inherent weakness of capitalist economics than any terror attack.

SEA CHANGE

Commentator after commentator have stated that Australian politics has undergone a sea change. Gone are the days when governments swam or sank on their records. The Australian people are no longer concerned about their hip pockets, they're more concerned about the abstract notions that are characterised by the United States war on terrorism. We're told that conservative governments are about to embark on the back of the United States war on terrorism on a new conservative golden age.
Well that's what the commentators say, and the last few polls seem to confirm that there is a sea change in Australia's political opinion. The only problem is that an increasing number of Australian's are beginning to loose their jobs and are beginning to face a very bleak future. As the unemployment rate rises, that old adage that the difference between prosperity and poverty in a capitalist society, is six weeks wages, is becoming a reality that many Australians are facing. As workers begin to loose their livelihood, the bravado that has accompanied the war on terrorism will become a thing of the past.

The sea change that has occurred in Australian political opinion is a byproduct of a media engendered hysteria about the events in the United States. It's a byproduct of emotional responses to events most people don't understand or don't want to understand. It's a response that can change overnight. Insecurity at a personal and familial level, can and does challenge peoples perception of the world. As the level of personal insecurity rises, what's

happening overseas becomes an academic question.

There is no sea change in Australian political opinion, just a shift from the way that the social and political agenda is being manipulated by a mass media which sets the parameters on community discussions about what is desirable, effective and in the interests of the Australian community.

MORE CORPORATE WELFARE!!

It looks like the Australian taxpayer has accepted that they should foot the bill for corporate collapses. The collapse of H.I.H., OneTel and Ansett, has seen thousands of workers losing entitlements that they are legally entitled to. The government and the opposition response in these cases, is to introduce, and pass legislation that will make taxpayers liable for entitlements that the corporate sector can't or won't pay.

Why should one cent of taxpayers money be earmarked to bail out failed corporations? A much more sensible and realistic response to this sorry little saga should have involved the corporations that have gone belly up. There is nothing stopping the government from passing legislation that forces employers to place employees entitlements into trust funds that are managed by the government. Workers entitlements shouldn't be used as an interest free loan for employers.

The sooner employers, not taxpayers, pay workers entitlements, the sooner the business sector will clean up its act. The proposal to place workers entitlements in a trust fund, could be put into place in the next few days. Although initially, it would be resisted by employer groups, it wouldn't take long for public pressure to force employers to accept proposals that government make to protect workers entitlements.

PARENTS SPURN LOVECHILD

The Taliban is essentially a creation of the United States, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. After the Russians were defeated in Afghanistan by the Mujahadeen in the early 1990's, the surviving warlords carved up the country and plunged Afghanistan into perpetual civil war. The Taliban arose from the holy schools on the Afghanistan border, disgusted by the lawlessness in Afghanistan religious students, in the schools, formed a new movement based on early Islam.

The interesting thing about this new movement was how rapidly it gained support. In 1996, a little over two years after they were established, they entered Afghanistan and within a few months, took over 90% of the country. This amazing military feat, in a country bristling with guns, occurred not by fighting, but by the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars. Local commanders were given heaps of cash to switch sides and join the Taliban. The money trail leads all the way to Pakistan's secret service, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

The 10% of Afghanistan that remained under control of the opposition, did so because the Taliban has no role for ethnic minorities in its country. The few times they have won battles against opposition forces, they have executed ethnic minority prisoners. The price that the United States was willing to pay for stability in the region was the oppression of the Afghanistan people.

After twenty years of civil war, the Taliban were welcomed as heroes. Within a few months, most of the population, a relatively sophisticated urban population in the cities, changed their opinion about the Taliban. The Taliban is seen as an occupying force that has been imposed on the people by Pakistan. As the United States goes to war against the Taliban in Afghanistan and hundreds of thousands of civilians are killed, it's important to remember that the Taliban, like Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, are United States love children, that have turned into Frankenstein's.

ANARCHIST QUESTION AND ANSWER

Are anarchists, like Prometheus, doomed to a life of permanent protest?

Prometheus, a mortal, was punished by the Greek Gods for giving fire to a fireless human race. He was doomed for all eternity to push a rock up a mountain and just when he was about to roll it over the other side, it came tumbling down on him. Anarchism is essentially a movement that needs mass participation to succeed. Historically, anarchists have found it difficult to move from an anti-mass to a mass phase of struggle. Some anarchists believe that anarchism is an anti-mass movement, others believe that anarchism is a permanent protest movement that will never become a mass movement.

At the very moment when anarchist struggle is beginning to move from the periphery to the centre, the terrorist attack in New York changes the parameters which define struggle in the public mind. The anti-globalisation struggle, a struggle that was beginning to capture the hearts and minds of an increasing number of people in the first, as well as the third world, has been pushed into the background by spectular actions, which focus peoples minds on the symptoms of the powerlessness they feel, not the cause of their powerlessness. The polarisation of struggle into them and us options, may destroy the momentum that the anti-globalisation has just created.

The events surrounding the Paris Commune in 1871 and the Spanish Revolution 1936-1939, clearly demonstrates that anarchism has the potential to become a mass movement. Anarchism is a method of organisation that works for both small and large groups. Anarchists have the potential to change a movement that is limited to permanent protest to one that challenges dominant forms of organisation. There is not one good theoretical or practical reason to believe that anarchists are 21st century Prometheus's. Mass terror or no mass terror, what Anarchists have to say about life in the 21st century is still relevant. Anarchism holds the key to human survival in an age of increasing populations and shrinking resources.

As the pursuit of growth for growth's sake and profit for profit's sake gains momentum, the alternatives that anarchism presents, could be the balm that post-modern society needs to create a sustainable community that is based on the satisfaction of human needs.

ACTION BOX - Fighting Polarisation

"THOSE WHO ARE NOT WITH US ARE AGAINST US" George W. Bush

A chilling phrase if there ever was one. The terror attack in New York, has the potential to polarise debate in the same way debate was polarised before the collapse of Communism in 1989. If we are not careful, the ground that anarchists have painstakingly won over the past decade could disappear overnight. As activists, it's important we resist the polarisation of debate. The main question facing the world today, is not the rise of terrorism. The difference between the attacks on New York and Washington and the attacks that States carry out to maintain their integrity, is one of illegitimate versus legitimate action. Legitimacy is determined by who holds the reigns of power. The questions facing the human community have not changed, a war on terrorist groups by State supported terrorists, does not change the problems that globalisation is causing. Access to power, wealth, limited resources and the ability of minorities to control the destiny of tens of millions of people, will continue to be the central problems facing the human race. A State sanctioned war on terrorism is akin to giving a person with a fever, a few Panadols. You may bring the temperature down for a few hours, but if you don't find and treat the causes, the fever will come back and will eventually kill the patient.

As activists, we need to break the polarisation in our heads ("one side's right, the other's wrong") and more importantly, we need to extend the debate about why terrorism occurs. Unless we can break down the 'them and us' mentality that is overwhelming the hearts and minds of the population, we may find that all the gains we have made since the collapse of communism will dissipate into thin air. Begin by talking to your friends and neighbours. Extend the discussion to strangers, use talk-back radio if you have access to it.

Use every means at you disposal to break down the polarisation that is enveloping the debate about what happened in New York. Turn off the television set and get out there and talk to your neighbours, friends, workmates about what happened. If you don't, we run the very real risk of living in a society where debate and action in a three dimensional world is limited by two dimensional ideas. Turn off that television set and become involved in interactive communication. Whether you use the internet, or the human voice doesn't matter, what matters is we don't allow the Bush and Bin Laden's of the world to limit debate to what they believe is important and appropriate.

AUSTRALIAN ANARCHIST AND RADICAL HISTORY

The Struggle Against Transportation

The European colonisation of Australia was built on the back of convict transportation from Britain and to some extent, transportation from the British colonies. As conditions improved and "free" labour immigrated to Australia, the presence of convict labour became the biggest stumbling block to the development of a workers movement. The first large meeting of workers and employers that was called to oppose transportation of convict labour occurred in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) on the 17th of December 1834 (thirty years after the transportation of convicts had commenced in Tasmania).

At this meeting, a resolution was passed that stated that "unemployment and poverty was due to the competition of convicts, expirees (convicts who had served their sentence who chose to stay in Australia or who as a condition of their sentence, could not return to Britain) and apprentices". At the end of the meeting, Free Labour Union, a combination of delegates from the workers and representatives, from employers, was set up to oppose transportation.

It took Australia's first colony, New South Wales, much longer to establish an Anti-Transportation Movement. It wasn't till 1846 that the movement in N.S.W., under the direction of the Operatives Anti-Transportation Committee gained steam. The Anti-Transportation Movement was most active in Tasmania between 1846 and 1849. During this period, twelve petitions were sent to Queen Victoria, asking her to cease transportation. The arrival of more and more "free" immigrants to Australia, who soon found out that they could not compete against convict labour, increased the call for an end to transportation. In 1849, both New South Wales and the new colony in Queensland (established 1824) were seething with calls for revolution and armed resistance to transportation. In that year, convict ships bound for Sydney were re-directed on to Brisbane, as the citizens of Sydney refused to let the ships disembark their human cargo in Sydney.

A petition was launched in New South Wales to oppose transportation in August 1850. Within two months, the petition was signed by 36,589 people (two thirds of the New South Wales population). The squatter's - who relied on convict labour – counter petition was signed by a mere 525 people. The Anti-Transportation Movement founded the Australasian League at a public meeting at the Queens theatre in Melbourne, on the 1st of January 1851. The League's members undertook not to employ any person arriving by transportation and "solemnly to engage with each other to support with their advice, their money and their countenance all who might suffer in the lawful promotion of their cause".

The transportation system ended in the eastern colonies in 1853 but continued in Western Australia (where it was introduced in 1850) until 1868.

BOOK REVIEW, "BOYS WILL BE MEN", Raising our sons for courage, caring and community

Paul Kivel, New Society Publishers 1999, ISBN 0-86571-395-2

Don't be put off by this books cover. I don't know how much control the publishers had over

the cover, but if they had any, they're responsible for consigning this book to a dusty library shelf. Considering how important the content in this book is, I know it seems trivial criticising the cover, but if people are put off from picking up the book because of its cover, it's important I make this point. Flicking through the pages of "Boys Will Be Men", I gained the impression that this was going to be another of those "how to" books. A book that is long on rhetoric but short on practical advice.

A statement on page 94 caught my eye, "The problem is not anger but the misdirected focus of that anger when it turns into violence against family and friends".

On page 95 the author takes the question a little further, "But what if we assumed the anger was okay?", "That it was a legitimate feeling indicating that something was wrong, unjust, painful or hurtful?", "What if we assumed the anger was essential for making changes for the better?"

Strangely this book makes an important contribution to the debate surrounding the "war of terror" launched by the United States. It's possible that this war will drag on for decades, drawing our sons into the arms of the God, King and Country brigade. If push comes to shove, it's likely that today's thirteen and fourteen year olds will be conscripted by the state in the war against terrorism. Fortunately the book gives practical advice on how not to bring up sons who will be seduced by war rhetoric.

Paul Kivel, co-founder of the Oaklands men project, has in a very simple way raised points about important aspects of raising boys. After a lively introduction and discussion about male socialisation, the book is divided into four parts, 'Becoming Allies to Our Sons', 'Every day challenges', 'Relationships' and 'Public Action'. Over half of this 240-page book is devoted to practical everyday challenges. Although the book raises important concerns and tackles important issues, I couldn't help feeling that it suffers from the "Brady Bunch" approach - their solution to every problem.

Not all problems can be resolved, although most parents do the best they can, what parents achieve or don't achieve, as far as child rearing is concerned, can be determined by things outside their control. The personal baggage they carry from their childhood, economic factors, addictions and societal pressure all contribute to what type of children we bring up. By all means read "Boys Will Be Men", you like me will learn something from this book. Unfortunately the books main failure lies in the authors attempt to cover all bases, something a 240-page book can never hope to achieve.

"Boys Will Be Men" is available for $19.95 (Australia) from Anarres Books. On the net, email your order to mailorder@anarres.org.au. While you're browsing, have a look at their 2001 web catalogue <http://www.anarres.org.au/>

No access to cyber space, don't worry send your order to Anarres Books P.O. Box 150 East Brunswick 3057, Melbourne, Australia. While you're sending your order, ask them for their 2001 catalogue. You won't be disappointed.

PERSONAL OBSERVATION

Thirty or so men, women and children stumbled through the darkness, a few had flashlights, the rest followed. An air of excitement eddied through the crowd. Ripples of laughter collided with animated conversation. Most had been planting trees on the banks of a denuded creek, volunteers who had given up their weekend to make a practical difference were now being shepherded into a paddock. A young man who jointly owned the farm with his parents led the way carrying a bright red plastic jerry can.

Stopping, we could make out the outline of a pile of broken branches, grass clippings, and logs that stood almost two stories high. Logs had been piled on top to keep bits and pieces from blowing away. Over the past year, the farm refuse had been piled higher and higher for this moment. Running as if his life depended on it, the man with the jerry can stuffed used newspaper in strategic positions. He poured petrol round the margins, yelling as he threw a match into the tangled mess. The fire flickered, ran, and roared engulfing the red jerry can the man was still holding. He laughed and threw it into the flickering mass. Within a few seconds, flames shot out into the dark, twisting, turning, curling, reaching for the sky, dancing shamelessly, suggestively, lightening up the paddock, creating a temporary refuge for those of us that had come to see the celebration of a years work - the lighting of the bonfire.

An ancient ritual practised before the advert of gas and electricity. The flames contained within a man made prison, fought to survive the fires offspring, cinders danced above the flames, drifting down to the earth, aching to cleanse the earth with fire. This time, the bonfire remained a human prisoner, growing and splashing the night sky with a palette of colours. The first sign that the fiery symphony had reached its crescendo came when the hills that had emerged from the darkness, began to melt back into the underworld. As the bonfire melted into itself, the crowd feeling the cold, came closer to the light. A steel girder, which sat on top, slid into the bonfires belly adding blue to the palette. As darkness reclaimed its realm and the bonfire consumed its soul, the crowd began to drift away, stumbling through the field, littered with the remains of a fire that had sculptured the land hundreds of millions of years ago. The children of those halcyon days, pocked marked lava rocks patiently wait for the human race to be consumed in an Armageddon of its own making freeing the earth from both those who want to make a difference and those who don't care.

STOP PRESS

THE GOD, KING AND COUNTRY BRIGADE

The God, King and Country brigade are at it again, tearing themselves apart in the name of everything but humanity. Jihad, a war to last a decade, a war for Islam, a war to uphold the honour of the United States. As the front line, troops and more importantly, civilians, die like the carp, the State run and Corporate media will be beating the drum for God, King and Country. The mass hysteria surrounding the call to war and the all the way with L.B.J. posture that the Australian government is taking, is a grave cause for concern.

The only silver lining in this debacle is the people on both sides who are asking themselves what's all this about. What are the causes of the atrocities that have been committed and will continue to be committed? Those people on both sides who are asking themselves, why should I fight and die for abstract notions like God, King and Country, are those that hold the key for an end to the carnage. Over the next few months, and possibly over the next few years, self-righteous and moral people will sacrifice themselves for such abstract notions. Unfortunately, they will be wounding and killing many people who's feet are firmly and squarely planted on the ground. These people's concerns are much more practical than the God, King and Country brigade. They are not interested in martyrdom or dying a glorious death or going to the next world. All they're interested in is living their lives outside the control of the God, King and Country brigade.

During the coming months, the level of hysteria and propaganda will reach a crescendo. The amount of blood spilt will be enormous, but at the end of the day, nothing will be solved.

The God, King and Country Brigade have nothing to offer us as individuals, or to humanity as a whole. They deserve each other. The list of atrocities committed by the God, King, and Country Brigade would fill an encyclopedia. Just look at all the World War One monuments in every suburb and every country town in Australia and weep for those who died in essentially a trade war. Nothing is different this time, both think they are right, both believe they are blameless, both believe God is on their side. As activists, we have a very important role to play in the coming propaganda war. We need to dissect and analyse the garbage that's peddled as truth and point out that the collective punishment that is being meted out by both sides involved in the war on terrorism, prolongs the conflict, stokes the fires of discontent and, ultimately, destroys the gains for humanity that those of us involved in the struggle against the God, King and Country brigade have made.

Joseph TOSCANO / Libertarian Workers for a Self-Managed Society.

VIDEO BOX

The Mexican!

Starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts. At first I thought, not another stroppy love story! But was I in for a surprise. An excellent release, ready to hit your video shelves in the coming weeks. The Mexican begins with the dysfunctional relationship woes between Brad and Julia. Following an argument, Julia packs her bags for Vegas, leaving Brad to stay home to do one last job for the mob before he is free. It's Brad's last job. His debt to the mob ends when the boss (Gene Hackman) is released soon from jail. Supposedly it is all over between Brad and Julia as he makes his way cross the border to Mexico doing what he does best. Bungling up each and every job the mob throws at him. What begins as a simple pick up of a pistol and a young Mexican to bring back over the border to the United States, ends up in a cross country car chase and gun toting showdown. Julia Roberts is held hostage by the mob, as collateral in case brad decides to shoot through with the pistol. The pistol itself holds a very high sentimental as well as economic value, and everyone is out to get it. The history of the pistol supposedly embedded deep in Mexican folklore.

Hoffa!

Starring Jack Nicholson and Danny Devito. Based on the true story of Jimmy Hoffa (played by Jack Nicholson), US team-master boss. This film traces the life of Jimmy Hoffa. From his early beginnings as a union organiser for over worked and under paid truck drivers, which eventually led him to becoming the head of America's most influential labour union, and finally to his downfall. Danny Devito plays an out of luck lone truck driver, who after meeting Hoffa, turns towards the union to improve his conditions. With increase union membership, comes more power and more money. Before too long, organised crime wants in with the union, and as we all know, once the mob is in, they're in for life as the saying goes. Though overdramatised, this film is nevertheless an accurate portrayal of unionism gone off the rails. The comparisons are striking between the union/mob relationship in the film and the situation in Australia in the 1970's between the Painters and Dockers union and the mafia. A well produced film with an all star cast. With many memorial unionist vs scab scuffles to keep you at the edge of your seat, Hoffa is definitely a film to see. Released 1992.

Georgios Alexandrou
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ANARCHIST PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED THIS WEEK

- RED and BLACK No.29 Autumn 2001, An Anarchist Journal, J. Grancharoff, P.O. BOX 12, QUAAMA N.S.W. 2550, AUSTRALIA
- ANARCHO-SYNDICALIST REVIEW No.32 Summer 2001, P.O. BOX 2824, CHAMAPIGN IL 61825, UNITED STATES, asr@labourstart.zzn.com
- UMANITA NOVA Vol.81 No.30 9th Sept 2001, Redazione Nazionale, C. so Palermo 46, 10152, TORINO, ITALY, Email fat@inrete.it, Tel/Fax (011)857 850, Mobile 0338-6594 361

DEBT ELIMINATION APPEAL – Our debt stands at $1426.30

So you think that the Anarchist Age Weekly Review will appear week in, week out, irrespective of the economic circumstances. If Ansett, H.I.H. and OneTel – billion dollar companies – can go down the drain, why can't we? Our latest appeal for people to renew their subscriptions have fallen on deaf ears. Our appeal for internet users to take out subscriptions have met the same fate. If thirty subscribers took out subscriptions for another year, we wouldn't be in the position we are in today. The ball's in your court. If you can help by renewing subscriptions, then we encourage you to do so.

Keep sending in those money orders and cheques made out to Libertarian Workers to PO Box 20 Parkville, 3052 Melbourne Australia. If sending less than 20 dollars send 45 cent stamps and save on bank and post office charges. Without your assistance we cannot continue to publish and broadcast. Don't know what to buy that friend that doesn't want or need anything!! Buy them a subscription to the Anarchist Age Weekly Review, 10 issues 10 dollars, 50 issues 50 dollars. Earth's only English anarchist weekly.

Debt 26-9-2001 $1426.30

ANARCHIST WORLD THIS WEEK

NOW ON THE INTERNET – FOR ANYBODY ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TO LISTEN IN TO. LIKE THE PROGRAM – TELL YOUR FRIENDS AROUND THE PLANET ABOUT OUR INTERNET ADDRESS –http://www.freespeech.org/anarchistAge

ANARCHIST WORLD THIS WEEK POSTER AVAILABLE FOR THE COST OF A FEW STAMPS

Want to help us find new listeners for the Anarchist World This Week? Send a few stamps to AWTW, PO Box 20, Parkville 3052, Melbourne VIC. Australia. We'll send you out a colour poster (A3) for your use & a black & white poster you can photocopy, put up & display to help us increase the number of people who listen to the Anarchist World This Week.

STAMP APPEAL – We normally spend over $400.00 per month on postage stamps. If you have any spare stamps floating about or are about to write to us, stuff a few stamps in the envelope. Every little bit helps.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY RADIO SATELLITE

Anarchist World This Week is broadcast live on the National Community Radio Satellite 10.00am every Wednesday (Eastern time) Community Radio Stations affiliated to the National Community Satellite can play it live or download it and play it later on in the week. The programme is played by a number of community radio stations across Australia. If you want to listen to the Anarchist World This Week, contact your local community radio station and ask them to play the programme. If they won't, ask them why not!!

LATENT ANARCHISTS NEED TO BE ACTIVATED

RTR, a Community Radio Station in Perth, has recently begun broadcasting The Anarchist World This Week. A number of listeners have contacted us about establishing links with other anarchists in Western Australia. If you're interested in making contact with other anarchists in Western Australia, send us a note or email us at anarchistage@yahoo.com. This notice applies both to individuals and groups.

Politically manipulated and scorned? Sick of being a peripheral player every time a Federal election comes around, then join:-

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a "political party" that is putting the boot into the Australian Parliamentary Process. Send a stamp self-addressed envelope to

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PO Box 20, Parkville. 3052. Melbourne. Australia Telephone (03) 9828 2856 (24 hour answering service). We will send information about how to join this unique 21st century Australian phenomena.

DON'T PUT IT OFF JOIN THE PUSH FOR CHANGE NOW.

Written and authorised by Joseph Toscano

(National Convenor 205 Nicholson St Footscray 3012 Melbourne Aust.)

EMAIL MADNESS

Have access to cyberspace? Want to help us save on printing and postage costs? Then why don't you receive the Anarchist Age Weekly Review by email? INTERESTED??

Then email us at anarchistage@yahoo.com and arrange to have the weekly emailed to you.

BAYSIDE ANARCHIST PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY 17TH OCTOBER

7.00pm to 10.00pm

TOPIC:- A CELEBRATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO GLOBALISATION – Richard from Seaford will be outlining plans for a daylong meeting/celebration in late November which will be held at the Seaford Community Hall.

VENUE:- WOSSLE STIP CAFÉ, 16 STATION ST. SEAFORD, MELBOURNE (one minute from Seaford railway station)

ALL WELCOME! Entry by donation. Tea and Coffee provided.

ANARCHIST MEDIA INSTITUTE OBSCENITY OF THE WEEK

Has been awarded to the corporate and state run media for polarising debate about the worlds problems to a debate about terrorism.

All the News That Fits

***The Labor Party will support six government bills to reduce the rights of refugees. Among other things the laws will allow the Australian government to force ships out to sea. The "push off" policy led to many deaths by drowning when it was used by the governments of some Asian countries in the 1980s. The Labor Party has proposed some amendments to the laws. However they say they will vote for the government's bills even without the amendments.

SOURCE: The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald.

***A report by the CEPU, one of the unions which covers workers in Telstra, has shown that Telstra has achieved another record profit, at the expense of jobs, wages, conditions, and service. Telstra announced a record $4 billion profit last financial year. In one section of Telstra, some staff were working 60-70 hours a week. In one case a person was working 50 hours a week on top of their normal full time working hours. Telstra has also 'outsourced' its call centre work. This means that they have made their call centre staff redundant and paid a labour hire company, Stellar, to hire people to do the same work, without the same wages and conditions. This manoeuvre has been challenged in court but found to be a legal way of avoiding minimum wages and conditions in particular workplaces. At some sites, Stellar workers have a base rate of only $25,000, with no leave loading, evening, or weekend loading (extra pay for inconvenient hours). Stellar workers are expected to answer approximately 450 calls in 2.5 hours without a break.

SOURCE: CEPU bulletin.

***Liberal MP Peter Slipper says there is an "undeniable link" between refugees and terrorists. He said that refugees could be terrorists in disguise, sent here by the Taliban, the religious fundamentalist dictatorship of Afghanistan. Mr Slipper didn't offer any reasons as to why well-funded terrorists would choose to expose their operatives to possible death, imprisonment, and deportation, when they could buy their way in as rich immigrants have always been able to do.

SOURCE: AAP.

***Australian workers now work, on average, more than workers in Japan. One third of the Australian workforce has a working week which is so long that it would be illegal in some countries in Europe.

SOURCE: CEPU bulletin.

***The government of the USA has demanded that Pakistan cut off all food and other supplies to Afghanistan. The US's demand is supposedly because Afghanistan is harbouring Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the bombing of the World Trade Centre. Afghanistan faces mass starvation after the civil war which led to the Taliban, one of the factions funded by the US, taking power. Cutting off aid is unlikely to have any effect on bin Laden, who is a billionaire. Political commentators however suggest that "unknown numbers of people who have not the remotest connection to terrorism will die, possibly millions". In other news, Balbar Singh Sodhi has been murdered in the US in a racial attack. His attacker was seemingly inspired by anti-Afghan rhetoric on the part of the US government and media and mistook Mr Sodhi, a Sikh from India, for a Moslem.

SOURCE: radio interview with Noam Chomsky, and article by Virinda Kalra.

Anarchist News Service

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